

A Message from Mayor Paul J. Smith, Jr.

Hello friends,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and are refreshed as we enter the Fall season. Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us.

You may have noticed during the recent months that we have had several road improvements projects going on throughout the borough. We are making improvements on Ash and State Streets along with parts of Seagate and Shore Rd. With the help of grant monies, we were able to do reconstruction of parts of Newark and Arlington along with Bank St. These projects are finishing up as the construction season comes to a close. Thank you for your patience as this work was going on.

On the subject of construction, you will notice that improvements to Borough Hall are in full swing. As with any construction project, there are always challenges to being able to stay on schedule. Our borough professionals are being very diligent to ensure that the project remains as close to "on schedule" as possible. We look forward to being able to offer more of our services to the residents from one building while providing a more secure environment for our workers.

The 2018 budget included, among other items, some additional improvements to the ball fields at Scholer Park. We have added some bleachers for families and friends who come to watch the games along with canopies for the benches arriving soon to give the players some shade.

I am sure that by this time you have all received your new tax bills for the year. I am happy to be able to point out that the portion of your taxes that are used for Municipal purposes, the part that we can control, represents a tax decrease again this year. That makes three straight years that the municipal purposes tax rate has been flat or has seen a decrease. I want to thank the Council, our Administrator and our financial professionals who work hard to not place additional tax burdens on you.

Our flood protection project continues to move forward. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes along with meetings with officials on the federal, state and county level. We hope that this preliminary work comes to an end soon so we can see some construction equipment on site. You can follow updates on the project on the borough website.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our July 3rd celebration a success. The Recreation Committee once again did a great job and the fireworks were wonderful! Thanks also go out to the Police Department, Emergency Services and the Department of Public Works. Union Beach was at its best welcoming so many visitors from out of town.

Save the Date ...,September 29th will be Clean Communities Day. If you or your group would like to participate, please register in advance with Mary Mancini in the DPW office.

October 13th is the date of the 4th Annual Union Beach Day. Check out the Borough website for more details. www.ubnj.net

Remember that schools are open so please drive carefully.

Keep Smiling!

Paul